

### JUNE 2015 NEWSLETTER

Providing you with the knowledge and resources to take your project management capability to the next level.



#### IN THIS ISSUE...

Article - Leadership Skills for Project Managers

Blog - Essential Agile Processes Part 8: Risk Adjusted Backlog

Recent News

Community Engagement

Project Management Humor

Featured Product - Essential Gear for Project Managers

Featured Training - PMP® Exam Prep Course

#### PM QUOTE

"A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow."

- George Patton

## CEO Message

Are leadership skills required for project management success? If you think so, you are absolutely right. Project management is becoming increasingly more difficult and complex, which means management skills aren't



NK Shrivastava, CEO

enough to deliver projects successfully. What are these leadership skills that every project manager needs? Read our article in this newsletter to learn more. I'd love to hear what you think of these skills and if you've had any experience with them.

The blog post is about risk-adjusted backlog, another key aspect of agile projects. Many teams don't use risk-adjusted backlog and miss out on the benefits, such as bringing more predictability to sprint and release goals. This blog post will give guidance on what a risk-adjusted backlog is and how to implement it in your own team.

Enjoy reading all the other sections in this issue, and don't forget to visit the [training page](#) to learn about our upcoming PMP® Exam Prep Course and other courses offered in Atlanta, Kansas City, Springfield, and also over the web. Join our next FREE [webinar](#) on "PMP® Exam Changes" on Jul 01 at 12:00pm CT.

## Leadership Skills for Project Managers

Leadership skills are commonly sought-after, not just in project management. Within project management, being an effective leader means developing several key skills, including delegating, negotiating, and team-building. In addition, behavioral and contingency models of leadership, including the situational theory of leadership, can be used by leaders to deploy these skills and effectively lead their teams. In this article, we describe key leadership skills for project managers and identify



approaches they can use to lead their teams to success. Why do some teams work well together and achieve their goals, while other teams lose focus and morale and ultimately fail? | [Read More](#)

## Essential Agile Processes Part 8: Risk Adjusted Backlog

Agile backlogs are about organizing the value that will be delivered to the customer as a result of a project. One important step in any project is to account for risks that could provide positive or negative impact on the key outcomes that provide value. Mike Griffiths, writing for ProjectManagement.com, calls risks the "anti-value" on an agile project because of their ability to hinder value delivery (Griffiths, 2011, 20 September). On a project, risk management means identifying, planning for, and monitoring for risks that threaten to derail the project's schedule, budget, or scope. In agile, the risks threatening the scope take on greater dimension, since the scope is flexible. Risks on agile projects hinder the ability to deliver value to the customer by keeping the team from being able to accomplish key tasks. In this blog post, we will look at the risk-adjusted backlog and how to apply it at each level of the agile project. | [Read More](#)



## Recent News

**RefineM Establishes Partnership with Two New Non-Profit Clients:** RefineM recently has the pleasure of working with two new non-profit clients, Teen Challenge USA and Enactus USA. RefineM is providing project management resources to help each organization reach their goals. Teen Challenge USA offers guidance and resources for youth, adults, and families who struggle with drug addiction and other life-controlling issues, providing mental and emotional balance to their lives... | [Read More](#)

## Community Engagement



NK Shrivastava, CEO of RefineM, led the [Southwest Missouri AITP](#) Project Management Special Interest Group on May 20th, 2015 at the eFactory in Springfield, MO.

## Project Management Humor

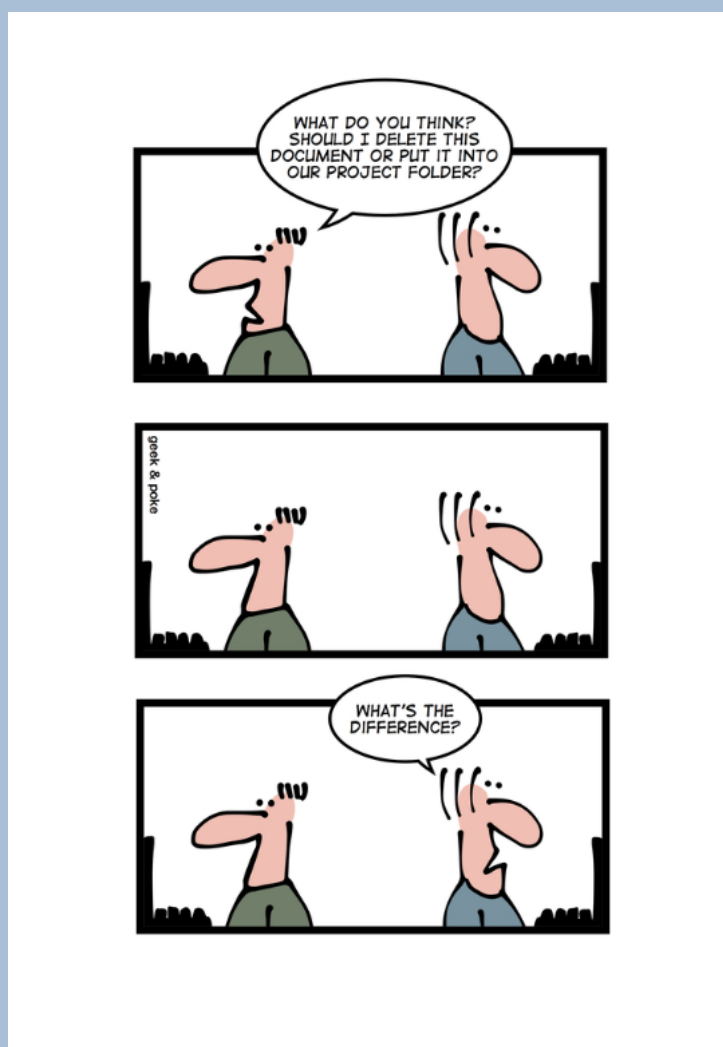


Image by [Geek & Poke](#)

## Featured Product - Essential Gear for Project Managers

[Essential Gear for Project Managers Level 1](#)



is a toolkit for Project Managers and start-up PMOs. It includes only the eight indispensable PM processes needed to successfully execute your project. The kit includes intuitive templates stripped down to the bare essentials as well as a handbook that describes best practices and pitfalls.

**BUY NOW**

## Featured Training - PMP<sup>®</sup> Exam Prep Course

If you are seeking PMP<sup>®</sup> certification and want a focused, hard-hitting prep course, this class is for you. Our personalized course not only covers the *PMBOK<sup>®</sup> Guide* 5th Edition, it incorporates real-life examples from project experience, as well as practice tests. You will learn the most critical parts of each knowledge area, understand where your own knowledge gaps lie, and receive the individual attention you need to close these gaps. You will also receive PMP<sup>®</sup> exam test-taking tips and tricks to help you pass the exam on your first attempt. | [More Information](#)

*When & Where:* June 22nd-25th, 8:30am-4:30pm in Springfield, MO

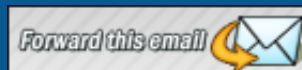
*Earn:* 35 PDUs/Contact Hours

*Cost:* \$2,250

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